

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO USDOC WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7969

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: BBAK, DM

SUBJ: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON BONA-FIDES OF EURO INDUSTRIES

(MORTON NASH)

1. MORTON NASH, AMERICAN BUSINESSMAN, HAS CONTACTED SEVERAL BENINESE BUSINESSMEN AND OFFICIALS IN THE BENINESE GOVT CONCERNING A VARIETY OF DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS PRESENTLY UNDER STUDY BY A GPRB AGENCY. NASH CLAIMS TO BE PRESIDENT OF FIRM WITH HEADQUARTERS AT GRAND CAYMAN ISLAND. NAME OF FIRM: EURO INDUSTRIES, INC. US OFFICE: 3010 N. BAY RD., MIAMI BEACH, FLA. 33140. NASH ALSO CLAIMS TO BE PRESIDENT OF FOLLOWING FIRMS: MORTON DONUT SYSTEMS INT., INC., SLUMBEREST SLEEP PRODUCTS, U-FIX-IT AUTO CENTERS, EURO-MUFFLERS CENTERS, RIFF LTD., LEO ADVERTISING AGENCY, EXECUTIVE FOODS, LTD.

2. NASH MET THE DIR OF INTERIOR COMMERCE FOR THE PRB AT TRADE FAIRS IN MILAN AND PARIS SEVERAL MONTHS AGO. HE ARRIVED IN COTONOU IN THE MIDDLE OF DEC, MADE SEVERAL CONTACTS WITH LOCAL BUSINESSMEN, MET AGAIN WITH THE DIR OF INTERIOR COMMERCE, AND WAS INTRODUCED BY HER TO UNIDO ADVISOR TO THE MIN OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY. UNIDO ADVISOR CONTACTED EMBASSY. NASH HAD TOLD HIM THAT HIS COMPANY COULD PROVIDE RAW MATERIALS,
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MACHINERY, AND TECHNICAL EXPERTISE FOR THE PRODUCTION OF POLY-

URETHANE FOAM, MATTRESSES, WET BATTERIES, AND FIBERBOARD PACKAGING. HE ALSO SAID HE COULD PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR A GENERAL MOTORS MULTI-PURPOSE VEHICLE ASSEMBLY PLANT, A CLOTHING FACTORY, A BLOW-MOLDING FACTORY, A ZIPPER FACTORY, PAPER PRODUCTS PRODUCTION, CONVERSION OF CITRUS AND CASSAVA PRODUCTS, AND A TOMATO CONCENTRATE PLANT. NASH SAID THAT HIS FIRM HAS OPERATIONS IN MALAWI, CAMEROON, AND MALI, AND IS THE OFFICIAL CONSULTANT TO THE GOVT OF GUYANA FOR AGRICULTURE, PROCESSING AND PACKAGING.

3. UNIDO ADVISOR EXPRESSED SKEPTICISM TO EMBASSY OFFICER BECAUSE OF THE WIDE VARIETY OF PROFFERED SERVICES, THE VAGUE NATURE OF THE FINANCIAL DETAILS IN NASH'S PROPOSITIONS, AND THE FACT THAT NASH DID NOT WISH CONTACT WITH EMBASSY IN BENIN. UNIDO ADVISOR ALSO THOUGHT IT ODD THAT NASH ASKED NO QUESTIONS RE THE LOCAL POLITICAL SITUATION WHICH, IN MARXIST-LENINIST BENIN, SHOULD BE A MATTER OF PRIMARY CONCERN FOR LEGITIMATE FOREIGN INVESTORS. ADVISOR HAS REQUESTED EMBASSY VERIFY BONA FIDES OF NASH AND HIS COMPANY.

4. COMMENT: OFFERS OF FOREIGN INVESTMENT ARE PRACTICALLY NON-EXISTENT IN THE PRB AT THIS POINT, DUE TO THE SWEEP OF NATIONALIZATIONS, AND THE GOVT'S UNRELENTING PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN AGAINST CAPITALISM. EMBASSY THEREFORE FINDS NASH'S MANY PROPOSITIONS TO BE PARTICULARLY STRANGE.

5. FOR USDOC: ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE VERIFY THE EXISTENCE OF EURO INDUSTRIES AND PROVIDE POST WITH INFO ON ITS BONA FIDES.

6. FOR INFO ADDRESSESS: WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFO YOU MAY HAVE CONCERNING MORTON NASH AND/OR EURO INDUSTRIES OPERATIONS IN YOUR HOST COUNTRY.
ENGLE

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